

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 10, 2007, Applicants hereby file the attached amendments and remarks.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants priority claim, and for consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on June 16, 2005.

By the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4-6, 8-20 are pending. Claims 13-20 are new. The amendments to the claims are supported by the present specification, for example, at page 9, lines 22-23, page 10, lines 1-2, 21-22, page 16, lines 10-14, and page 24, lines 7-23. The Examiner is requested to acknowledge entry of the amendment, including the amendment to the Title.

Claims 8-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §112 for being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that by this amendment claims 8-12 are definite, and request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over references A (US 5,048,522) and B (US 5,974,342), both which issued to Petrofsky. Applicants respectfully traverse.

One criteria for establishing a prima facie case of obviousness is that all features of the claimed invention be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).

In an exemplary embodiment of the claimed electric potential therapy apparatus, an electric field is used for the therapy of a user. As illustrated in Applicants' Figure 1, the electric potential therapy apparatus comprises, among other features, a plate electrode 1 provided in a position separated from the user, a

removable remote control 2 for controlling the apparatus, and a control circuit for controlling plate electrode 1 (see page 9, line 20 to page 10, line 1). When a higher voltage alternating current is input to the electric field generating plate electrode 1 an electric field is generated. The higher voltage alternating current is provided by the alternating current generating circuit (see Applicants' Figure 2, element 9, and page 9, lines 15-20).

Applicants' independent claims 1, 4, 19 and 20 recite, in combination with other features, the features of: 1) an electric field generating plate electrode which inputs the high-voltage alternating current from the alternating current generating circuit and generates an electric field; 2) wherein the electric field generating plate electrode is disposed inside the electric potential therapy apparatus with a predetermined distance from a surface of the electric potential therapy apparatus; and 3) wherein the high-voltage alternating current generated from the alternating current generating circuit is biased to a negative side.

In references A and B, electrical current, voltage, or power is applied through surface electrodes adhered directly to the skin of the human or animal subject, not to an electric field generating plate electrode. In particular, references A and B do not apply voltage to an electric field generating plate electrode that is disposed inside the electric potential therapy apparatus with a predetermined distance from a surface of the electric potential therapy apparatus as recited in Applicants' independent claims. (see reference A, col. 4, lines 43-47 and reference B, col. 4, lines 36-40).

Applicants' independent claims 1, 4, 19 and 20 also recite the feature of high-voltage alternating current generated from the alternating current generating circuit is

biased to a negative side as described at page 10, lines 21-22 of Applicants' specification.

In contrast, reference A does not disclose or suggest an alternating voltage that is biased to a negative side as recited in the claims. As described at col. 5, lines 65-66 and shown in Fig. 2 of reference A, the current waveform shown is symmetrical about the zero ampere axis, which is the result of an alternating voltage that is not biased. As for reference B, it does not disclose or suggest an alternating voltage biased to a negative side. For example, as shown in Fig. 3 and described at column 4, lines 55-56 of reference B, the maximum output is between 1-75 volts. There is no discussion of biasing to a negative side.

As for dependent claims 13 and 16, these claims recite the feature of a voltage of the high-voltage alternating current generated from the alternating current generating circuit is equal to or greater than 800 V. Reference A does not disclose or suggest a voltage range, and reference B, as discussed above, is limited to 1-75 volts (see col. 4, lines 55-56).

As for dependent claims 14 and 17, these claims recite the feature of a current of the high-voltage alternating current generated from the alternating current generating circuit is equal to or lower than some hundreds of microamperes.

In contrast, reference A discloses current values of 50-150 milliamperes (see col. 5, lines 39-41), and reference B discloses current values of 1-150 mA (see col. 4, lines 55-57).

As for dependent claims 15 and 18, these claims recite the feature of voltage having a pattern in which a voltage of the high-voltage alternating current generated from the alternating current generating circuit is increased and decreased alternately

with the passage of time, and one of a crest potential locus of successive crests and a trough potential locus of successive troughs gradually increases while the other gradually decreases.

While references A and B neither disclose nor suggest an output voltage pattern as recited in the claims, and shown in Fig. 13(b) and disclosed at page 16, lines 10-14 of Applicants' specification.


Neither reference A nor reference B, either individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in Applicants' claims 1, 4-6, 8-20. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, and an indication of allowable subject matter.

Should the Examiner believe that a personal interview would expedite prosecution, or has any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By: 
Martin E. Miller
Registration No. 56022

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620